

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of LAURA MARIE BALOWSKI,
AMANDA LYNN BALOWSKI, and KAYLA SUE
BALOWSKI, Minors.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

GEORGE BALOWSKI,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

SUZANNE SEARS,

Respondent.

In the Matter of LAURA MARIE BALOWSKI,
AMANDA LYNN BALOWSKI, and KAYLA SUE
BALOWSKI, Minors.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

SUZANNE SEARS,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

UNPUBLISHED

May 22, 2001

No. 226493

Macomb Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 98-046267

No. 227524

Macomb Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 98-046267

GEORGE BALOWSKI,

Respondent.

Before: McDonald, P.J., and Smolenski and K. F. Kelly, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

In these consolidated appeals, respondents appeal as of right from a family court order terminating their parental rights to the minor children pursuant to MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i), (g) and (j); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(3)(c)(i), (g) and (j). We affirm.

Although both respondents complied with some aspects of the parent/agency agreement, we are not persuaded that the court clearly erred in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. *In re Trejo Minors*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). Further, we are not persuaded that the court clearly erred in finding that the evidence did not show that termination of respondents' parental rights was clearly not in the children's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(5); *In re Trejo Minors*, *supra* at 354.

Next, we reject respondent Balowski's claim that petitioner's alleged failure to make reasonable efforts to reunify the family warrants reversal. The alleged deficiencies did not involve the principal issue that led to termination of Balowski's parental rights, that being Balowski's failure to successfully address his substance abuse problem. Thus, this issue does not provide a basis for relief.

Finally, we find no merit to respondent Balowski's claim that the referee's findings of fact are deficient under MCR 5.974(G)(1) and (3). The record reveals that the referee identified the statutory grounds for termination, discussed the evidence in support of those grounds, and explained the reasons for the decision made, thereby satisfying the requirements of the court rule.

Affirmed.

/s/ Gary R. McDonald
/s/ Michael R. Smolenski
/s/ Kirsten Frank Kelly